

New gTLD Objection Process January 2013

Webinar Information

Dial-in #s **US Toll-free** 1-877-941-9321 **US Toll** 1-480-629-9846 Access Code 4591393 International #s http:// newgtlds.icann.org/ en/announcementsand-media/ webinars/dialin-29jan13-en.pdf

Also available on the webinar page of the Microsite

- Session is being recorded
 - Play back is available on the microsite at the end of the webinar.
- Q&A session at the end
 - We will answer questions submitted by phone first.
 - Questions in the Questions &
 Comments pod in Adobe Connect will be addressed as time permits.

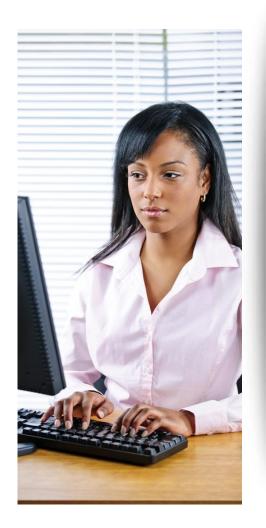
Agenda One World **One Internet**

- Background
- Dispute Resolution Service Providers
 - -ICDR
 - WIPO
 - -ICC
- Wrap up
- Questions

New gTLDs are coming.

ICANN received 1917 applications for new domain name extensions.

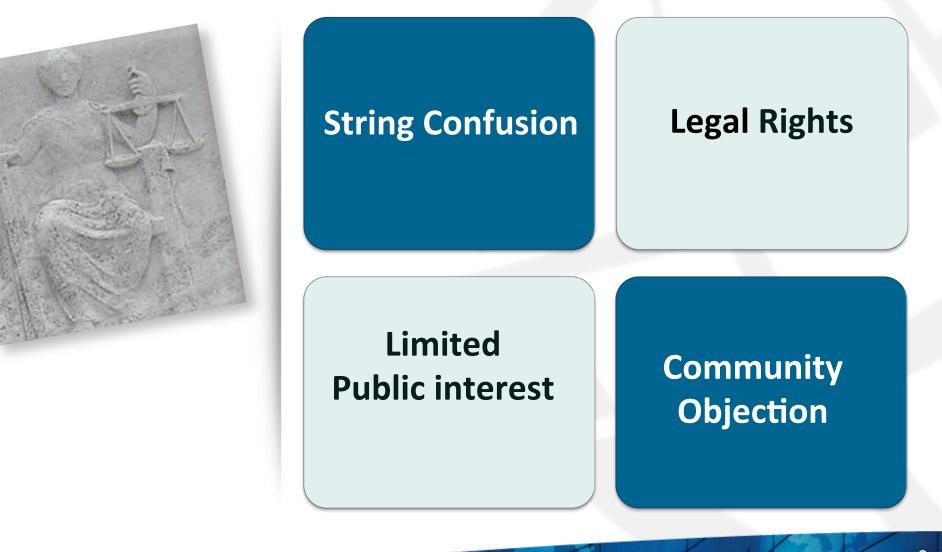
Objection Process



- You, as an Internet user, have the right to review applied-for new gTLDs.
- In some cases, you can file a formal objection to one or more.

Grounds for Objection

Objection period extended to 13 March 2013



Standing to Object



- TLD operators or applicants can file String Confusion objections.
- Rights holders can file Legal Rights objections.
- Established institutions can file Community Objections.
- ANYONE can file Limited Public Interest Objections.

Filing a Dispute



International Centre for Dispute Resolution





- File online objection (in English) with appropriate Dispute Resolution Service Provider.
- Pay required, non-refundable filing fee.
- Follow the process.

Where to File



WIPO ADF Arbitration and Mediation Center



- ICDR: String Confusion Objections
- WIPO: Legal Rights Objections
- ICC: Limited Public Interest and Community Objections

Independent Objector



Professor Alain Pellet

- Acts solely in the best interest of global Internet users.
- May lodge Limited Public Interest and Community Objections where no other objection is made.
- http://www.independentobjector-newgtlds.org/



International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR)



A Division of the American Arbitration Association

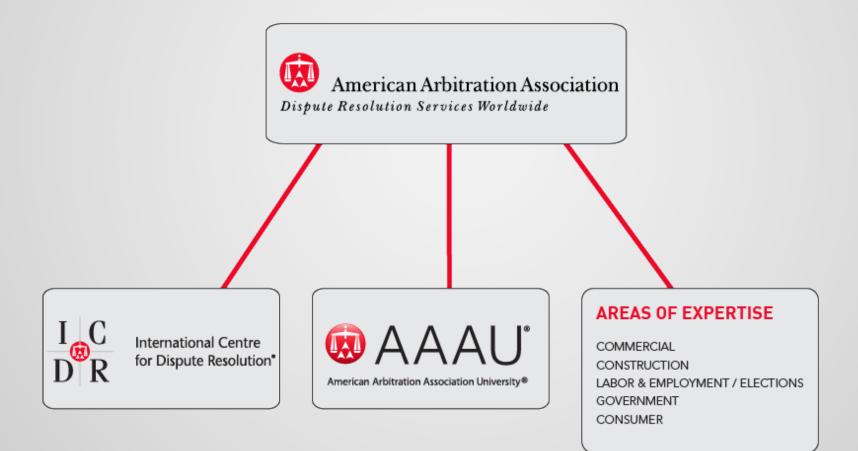
ICANN'S NEW gTLD PROGRAM String Confusion Objections



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- Established in 1996 as the international division of the American Arbitration Association.
- One of the most recognized and prominent providers of international dispute resolution services in the world.
- Largest Number of International Arbitration Filings last five years.
- Staff fluent in 14 languages
- 4 international offices
- 650+ worldwide independent mediators and arbitrators



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STRING CONFUSION

REGISTER WITH WEBFILE FILE NEW OBJECTION ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT

ONLINE DATA

STRING CONFUSION OBJECTIONS

- Standing to Object (3.2.2.1)
 - Existing TLD operator asserting confusion between applied-for gTLD and the TLD it currently operates
 - Any gTLD applicant in the current round asserting confusion between an applied-for gTLD and the gTLD for which it has applied. (Both have passed the initial evaluation)



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ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT

ONLINE DATA

ABOUT WEBFILE

- Secure, Proprietary System
- Registration Required
- o 24/7/365 Availability
- Payment Processing
- Document Upload
- Case Status



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- Select ICANN gTLD String Confusion Procedures Rules / Expert
 Determination
- Enter Objector Information
- Enter Applicant Information
- Enter String
- Upload Documents / English Language / 5000 words or 20 pages
- Submit Fee
 - Credit Card
 - o \$2,750 Filing Fee
 - Possible additional fees for expert compensation and hearing costs





NEW gTLD OBJECTION ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW (ARTICLE 9)

- Acknowledge Receipt of Filing
- Perform Administrative Review
- Advise if Incorrectly Filed
- Allow for Correction of Deficiency
- Possible Administrative Dismissal of Objection
- Notify Applicant of Completed Objection Filing



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STRING CONFUSION

REGISTER WITH WEBFILE FILE NEW OBJECTION ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT

ONLINE DATA

• Example of Online Objections Filed Report

ICANN New gTLD Program

ICDR Dispute Resolution Process - String Confusion Objections

ICDR Case No	Date Received	Ground for Filing	Objector	String	Applicant	Determination
001 - 12	27-Jun-12	String Confusion		ACCOUNTANT		



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- Objections Filed Report continually updated
- ICANN to publish Dispute Announcement 30 days from close of objection period
- ICDR Notice to Applicant for a response will initiate promptly after Dispute Announcement





- Applicant Reply Due within 30 days of ICDR notice
- Allow for correction of deficiencies
- Failure to timely reply is a default
- Responses shall contain
 - Name and Contact Information
 - Point-By-Point Response to Objectors Statements
 - Filing Fees, Including Expert Compensation Deposit and Hearing Fees
- Possible Consolidation of objections
- Negotiation and Mediation encouraged





- ICDR gTLD String Confusion Panel
 - Minimum 15 years of senior-level or professional experience
 - Experience in one or more of the following areas: Domain Name disputes; WIPO disputes; Internet, Intellectual Property
 - Training and substantial experience in arbitration, mediation, and/or other forms of dispute resolution
 - Freedom from bias and prejudice
 - Ability to evaluate and apply legal, business or trade principals
 - Ability to manage the process and provide a thorough and impartial evaluation of evidence
 - Dedicated to upholding the AAA Code of Ethics for Arbitrators
 - Located in 21 Different Countries in Europe, Asia, The Middle East and The Americas





- Expert will review all uploaded submissions
- Expert may decide if further written submissions are required
- Expert to decide issue based on documents submitted, ICANN Standards, and Rules or Principles it determines to be applicable
- Expert may decide to hold a hearing by only in extraordinary circumstances
- Objector has burden of proof to sustain objection
- Expert to issue a written, reasoned determination
- Prevailing party(s) to receive refund of expert compensation deposit





FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)





New gTLD Objection & Dispute Resolution Webinar

David Roache-Turner

January 29, 2013

Head, Internet Dispute Resolution Section Section WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center

Pre-Delegation Objection Procedures

New gTLD Dispute Resolution Procedure (Att. to AGB § 3)

- String Confusion Objection confusingly similar to existing/applied for TLD
- Limited Public Interest Objection contrary to generally accepted legal norms of morality and public order recognized under principles of international law
 - Community Objection substantial opposition from a significant portion of the intended target community
 - Public Interest/Community: Independent (public interest) Objector

Legal Rights Objection (LRO) infringes existing trademark or IGO rights

ICANN's Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) may provide an Early Warning or "GAC Advice on New gTLDs" concerning applications identified by governments as problematic

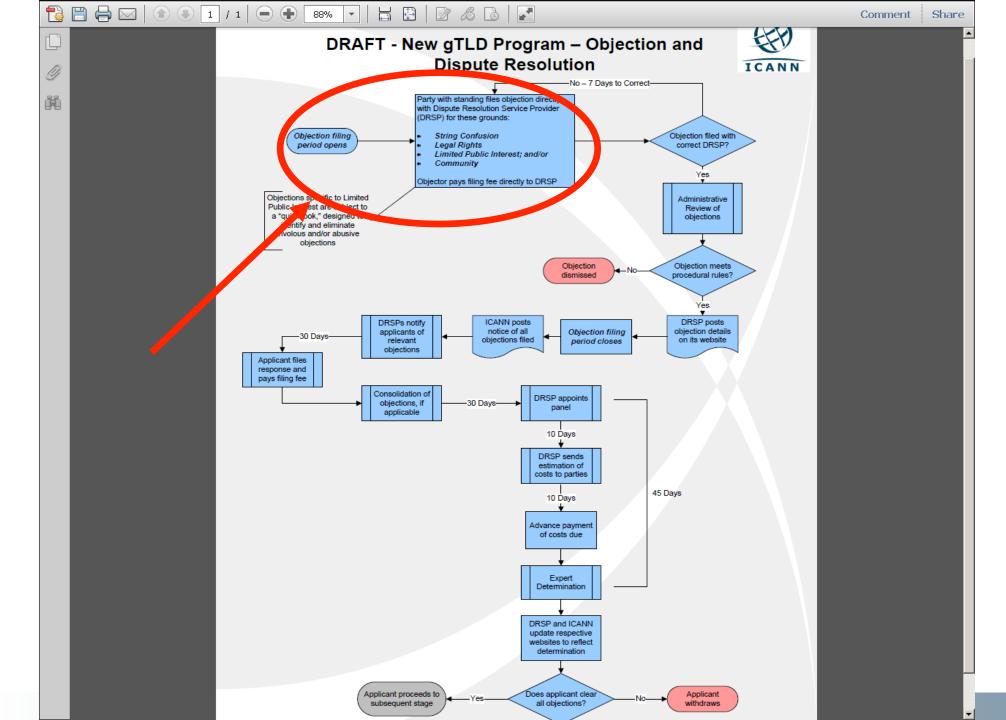
Center

What is a Legal Rights Objection?

- Prior to ICANN approving a New gTLD application, trademark owners and IGOs may file a formal objection on the basis of a "Legal Rights Objection" (LRO)
 - Standing: "rightsholders" (3.2.2) registered or unregistered trademark or service mark or IGO name or acronym (3.5.2)
- An independent panel would determine whether the applicant's potential use of the applied-for gTLD would be likely to infringe the objector's trademark, or IGO name or acronym
- The availability of an LRO proceeding does not preclude court options

Approximate LRO Procedure Timeline

- Jan 2012: new ICANN Applicant Guidebook; application window opened
- May 30 2012: application window closed
- June 13 2012: "ICANN Reveal Date"
 - Objection period: Commenced 13 June 2012 originally for 7 months, but now extended until March 13 2013.
- March 23, 2013: ICANN to release its application "first initial evaluation" results
- Mid-April: ICANN "Dispute Announcement"; applicants notified
- Mid-May: Objection response due (30 days)
- Mid-June: panel appointment (stay for any mediation)
- August: Objection determination due (45 days)
- August: ICANN to complete its application "first initial evaluation"



Overview of LRO Stages

Under the ICANN Procedure, in principle proceedings would typically be based on a single round of <u>electronically filed pleadings using model forms</u>, without hearing (by teleconference if possible)

Fees due at filing; 5-day cure period for administrative compliance deficiencies

Objection filing window closing March 13, 2013

- 30 days from close of filing window ICANN publishes "Dispute Announcement"
- From WIPO Center **notification**: 30 day (mandatory) response due date
- **30** days from **response**: WIPO Center to appoint panel (stay for any mediation)
 - 45 days for **panel determination**

POADR

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What Criteria Will LRO Panels Apply?

ICANN AGB § 3.5.2

- LRO criteria founded on WIPO Joint Recommendation Concerning Provisions on the Protection of Marks, and Other Industrial Property Rights in Signs, on the Internet
- Whether with respect to the objector's trademark or IGO name or acronym the potential use of the applied-for gTLD by the applicant:
 - (i) **Takes unfair advantage of** the distinctive character or reputation, or
 - (ii) Unjustifiably impairs the distinctive character or reputation, or
 - (iii) Otherwise creates an impermissible likelihood of confusion
 - Panels may refer to non-exclusive consideration factors

LRO Consideration Factors

ICANN AGB § 3.5.2 (con't.)...

Trademarks:

- 1. Identity or similarity (appearance, phonetics, meaning)
- 2. Objector's bona fide acquisition/use of the mark
- 3. Relevant recognition by the public
- 4. Knowledge of the objector's mark, any pattern of applicant infringement
- 5. Applicant's use (including preparations) of the mark in connection with a *bona fide* offering
- 6. Applicant's rights in the mark, including whether such acquisition/use has been *bona fide*, and whether the intended TLD use is consistent therewith
- 7. Whether applicant is commonly known by the mark
- 8. Whether the applicant's intended use would create a likelihood of confusion
- IGOs: five similar consideration factors

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LRO Filing Fees

- One objection to one application (i.e., for one gTLD) decided by one expert
- USD 10,000 for each party, **due on filing** of objection / response, respectively
 - Non-refundable USD 2,000 case administration fee per party
 - Expert fee (USD 8,000) refunded to the prevailing party
- Different fee arrangements apply to three-member panels and consolidation scenarios
- Any reduced Panel fees (i.e. on the basis of a consolidation scenario), would be refunded to the appropriate party from the initial filing fee, after the close of proceedings
 - Non-payment of fees by an objector will result in rejection of the objection, without panel appointment. Non payment of response fees by an applicant will result in the objection being deemed successful.

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LRO Language Requirements

In all cases, the language is English

"Parties may submit supporting evidence in its original language, provided [...] that such evidence is accompanied by a certified or otherwise official English translation of all relevant text"

LRO Word / Page Limits

Substantive portion limited to 5,000 words or 20 pages (whichever is less), excluding attachments

Objector/applicant must also list, describe and provide copies of any attached supporting evidence

and Mediation Center

LRO Expert Appointment

- Experts required to affirm neutrality by signing the Center's Statement of Acceptance and Declaration of Impartiality and Independence
- The Center will appoint a single-member panel in its sole discretion
- Where **all parties agree** on a three-member panel:
 - Each party submits a list of three candidates from the Center's list of experts (one of whom would be the respective co-panelist)
 - The Center will then provide the parties with a list of five candidates from the Center's list of experts for the parties' respective ranking, with a view to the Center's appointment of the third (presiding) panelist

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WIPO LRO Experts

Over 100 Experts drawn from the Center's list of UDRP panelists:

- collective panel experience spanning over 11,000 WIPO UDRP cases (slightly lower than UDRP average transfer rate)
- significant experience in trademark, e-commerce, and Internet law
- over 30 countries, with corresponding linguistic/regional diversity represented

The Center's LRO list of experts may be subject to additional development in light of case needs

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LRO Remedies

Remedies limited to the success or dismissal of the objection

No monetary damages

But, prevailing party entitled to a partial refund (i.e., the panel fee)

According to the ICANN Applicant Guidebook, a panel determination is "considered an expert determination and advice that ICANN will accept within the dispute resolution process"

Such determination is independent of any determination under either of the other types of ICANN objection options available

Multiple LRO Objections / Consolidation

Where multiple objections are filed against the same application (to streamline costs and for procedural efficiency), the Center will seek to consolidate those objections for determination by a single panel

A separate determination would be rendered for each objection

- Within seven days of the Center's notification of the commencement of the response filing period to the applicant, the parties themselves may also propose (for the Center's determination) that objections be consolidated
 - The Center may take into account factors such as:
 - Whether the same or similar application is at issue
 - Any request/opposition of the parties
 - The trademarks/evidence relied-upon
 - Expert availability

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Are LRO Cases Made Public?

Upon registering an objection for processing, the Center will post on its website the following information:

the proposed string to which the objection is directed
the names of the (parties) objector and applicant
the grounds for objection (i.e., "Legal Rights Objection")
the date of the WIPO Center's receipt of the objection

Unless in exceptional circumstances the panel deems it appropriate to redact portions of its determination, as required under the ICANN Procedure, the Center will post each determination in full on its website

> Arbitration and Mediation Center

More WIPO LRO Information/Resources

LRO FAQs

www.wipo.int/amc/en/domains/lro/

LRO Filing Guidelines

WIPO LRO Rules

WIPO LRO Fee Schedule

LRO Model Pleadings

<u>lro@wipo.int</u>

ICANN-WIPO LRO MOU:

www.icann.org/about/agreements/partnership-mous/wipo-mou-07jun12-en.pdf



About the Center

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Legal Rights Objections under ICANN's New gTLD Program

Filing a Legal Rights Objection at WIPO: What You Need To Know

The WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center has been appointed by ICANN as the exclusive provider of dispute resolution services for trademark based "pre-delegation" Legal Rights Objections under ICANN's New gTLD Program. This mechanism forms part of the available Trademark Rights Protection Mechanisms for New gTLDs.

Below are responses to some frequently asked questions about Legal Rights Objections; these responses summarize information found in the authoritative <u>ICANN Applicant Guidebook</u>. ICANN also separately provides an <u>Objection and Dispute Resolution Fact Sheet</u> and <u>webpage</u>.

- What is a Legal Rights Objection?
- Does ICANN offer other types of objection options?
- What criteria will a panel use to determine the outcome of a Legal Rights Objection?
- When can a Legal Rights Objection be filed?
- How does a rights owner submit a Legal Rights Objection?
- Is it necessary for an applicant to file a response to a Legal Rights Objection?
- What are the main stages of a Legal Rights Objection?
- How many rounds of pleadings are involved?
- Are there hearings?
- Can the parties mediate/settle their dispute?
- How much does it cost to file/defend a Legal Rights Objection?
- <u>Are there language requirements?</u>
- <u>Are there word/page limits?</u>
- Who are the experts available for appointment?
- How is the expert panel appointed?
- What are the remedies available?
- What happens if there is more than one objection to an applied-for New qTLD?
- Is the panel's determination made publicly available?
- Do parties retain their court options?
- What is the WIPO Center's role in Legal Rights Objections?
- Background on WIPO's involvement in Legal Rights Objections
- What trademark protection mechanisms are available after new qTLDs are approved?
- Additional information on WIPO's involvement in the Domain Name System
- <u>Questions?</u>

What is a Legal Rights Objection?

Prior to ICANN's approval of a New gTLD, third parties may file a formal objection to an application on several grounds, including, for trademark owners and Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs), on the basis of a "Legal Rights Objection."

When such an objection is filed, an independent panel (comprised of one or three experts) will determine whether the applicant's potential use of the applied-for gTLD would be likely to infringe (described below) the objector's existing trademark, or IGO name or acronym.

Does ICANN offer other types of objection options?

To address potential disputes over new gTLD applications, ICANN offers three other types of pre-delegation objection-based dispute resolution



Search

CONTACT US

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LEGAL RIGHTS OBJECTIONS TOOLKIT

- ICANN Applicant Guidebook, Module 3, Objection Procedures
- ICANN New gTLD Dispute Resolution Procedure
- WIPO Rules for New gTLD Dispute Resolution
- WIPO Schedule of Fees for New gTLD Dispute Resolution
- Legal Rights Objection FAQs
- Legal Rights Objection Filing Guidelines
- LRO Model Objection
- LRO Model Response
- List of WIPO LRO Experts

Arbitration and Mediation Center

More WIPO Information

LRO FAQs

- www.wipo.int/amc/en/domains/lro/
- WIPO resources: Filing Guidelines, FAQs, Rules, Fee Schedule, Model Pleadings
- Iro@wipo.int
- Trademark RPMs Snapshot
 - www.wipo.int/amc/en/domains/rpm/
- WIPO New gTLD Policy Snapshot
 - www.wipo.int/amc/en/domains/newgtld/





International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

ICC Dispute Resolution Services





ICC will administer objections based on two different grounds:

- 1. Limited Public Interest Objections
- 2. Community Objections

ADDITIONAL GOVERNING RULES



GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- Fully administered procedure
- Electronic documents only
- All procedures in English
- Model Form provided for Objections and Responses
- Scrutiny of Expert Determinations by ICC
- No Expert Mission (Article 12 of ICC Rules for Expertise)
- Filing Fee can be refunded
- ICC will appoint the Experts
- ICC ADR Rules for any mediation procedure, unless the parties decide otherwise

GENERAL PROCEDURE

1.Filing of the Objection with ICC

- Objection period open since 13 June 2012
- Objection must be filed using Model Form
- Objector must pay Filing Fee when filing the Objection

2.Administrative review of the Objection by ICC

- In case of non-compliance: Possibility to correct within 5 days
- In case of non-correction within time limit: ICC dismisses the objection
- In case of compliance: ICC confirms registration of the Objection

3.Publication of ICANN's dispute announcement

• Within 30 days after closing of objection period (foreseen for April 2013)

4. ICC invites Applicants to file Response within 30 days

- Invitation is notified by ICC after ICANN's dispute announcement
- Response must be filed using Model Form
- Applicants must pay Filing Fee when filing the Response

GENERAL PROCEDURE

5.Constitution of Expert Panel by ICC

• Within 30 days after receipt of Response

6.Invitation to pay Costs

• Within 10 days of constitution of Panel ICC invites payment

7. Payment of Costs

• Each party has to pay full Costs within 10 days

8. Transfer of file to Expert Panel

9.Draft Expert Determination rendered to ICC for scrutiny

• Within 45 days after receipt of the file

10.Notification of final Expert Determination to Parties by ICC

COMMUNITY OBJECTION



• Ground:

There is substantial opposition to the gTLD application from a significant portion of the community to which the gTLD string may be explicitly or implicitly targeted.

• Experts:

1 member Expert Panel

• Standing:

Established institution associated with a clearly delineated community

- Substance:
 - 1. The community invoked by the objector is a clearly delineated community; and
 - 2. Community opposition to the application is substantial; and
 - 3. There is a strong association between the community invoked and the applied-for gTLD string; and
 - 4. The application creates a likelihood of material detriment to the rights or legitimate interests of a significant portion of the community to which the string may be explicitly or implicitly targeted.



LIMITED PUBLIC INTEREST OBJECTIONS

• Ground:

The applied-for gTLD string is contrary to generally accepted legal norms of morality and public order that are recognised under principles of international law.

• Experts:

3 member Expert Panel

• Standing:

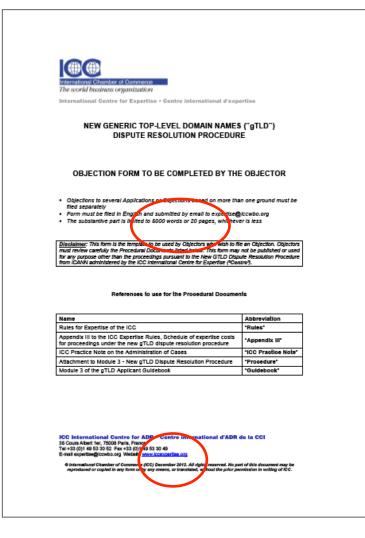
No limitation. But: subject to "quick-look" procedure by Expert Panel after receipt of the file to exclude frivolous and/or abusive objections

Substance:

Breach of general principles of international law

OBJECTION FORM





OBJECTION FORM



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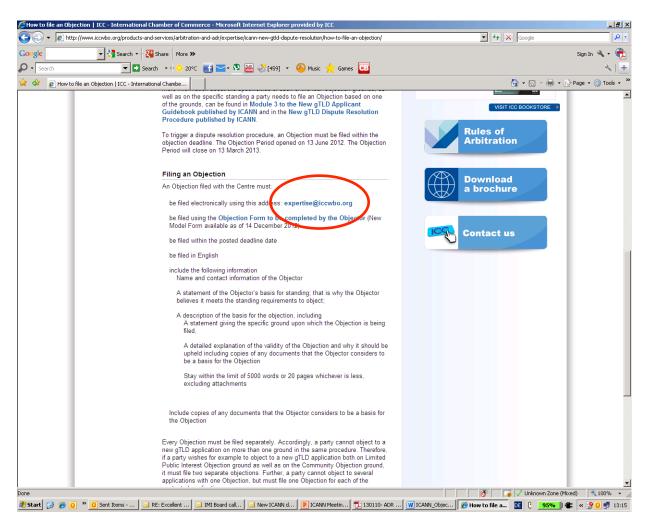
OBJECTION FORM



Objector's Standing to object (Artist 3.2.2 of the Guidebook and Article 8 of the Assagedure)
(Statement of the object) is basis for standing to object, that is, why the Objector believes it meets the requirements to object.)
Description of the basis for the Objection (Actiole 3.3.1 of the Guidebook and Article 8 of the Procedure) - Factual and Legal Ground
(Description of the basis for the Objection, Includer, a statement giving the specific ground upon which the Objection is being files, and a detailed extranation of the validity of the Objection and why it are up or uphreta.)
Remediec Requested
(maraile me removes requested)
Communication (Article 8(a) of the Procedure and Article 1 of the ICC Practice Note)
A copy of this Objection is/was transmitted to the Applicant on: [Insert date]
by [specify means of communication, for example e-mail to the following address:
A copy of this Objection is/was transmitted to ICANN on: [insert date]
by [specify means of communication, for example e-mail] to the following address:
Filing Fee (Article 1 uppendix III to the Rules and Article 8(o) of the Procedure)
As required, Euros 000 were paid to ICC on [insert date].
Evidence of the payment is attached for information.
Description of the Annexes filed with the Objection (Article 8(b) of the Procedure)
List and Provide description of any annex filed.
Date:

CONTACT DETAILS





EXPERTS

- Community objections: 1 Expert Panel
- ICC will establish non-exclusive pool of potential experts
- ICC National Committees are invited to submit nominations
- Confirmation of independence, impartiality and availability of each Expert for each case







- Filing Fee: € 5 000
- Expert's Hourly rate: € 450
- ICC Administrative Expenses normally
 - 1 Member Expert Panel: € 12 000
 - 3 Member Expert Panel: € 17 000
- Expert's Expenses: Reasonable expenses
- Division of Experts' Fees: 40% to the Chair, 30% to each co-Expert

ONLINE RESSOURCES

www.iccexpertise.org

- General information
- All relevant documents and model forms
- List of cases
- Publication of Expert Determinations





INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR ADR | LEADING DISPUTE RESOLUTION WORLDWIDE

ICC International Centre for Expertise

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Phone:+ 33 1 49 53 30 53Email:expertise@iccwbo.orgWebsite:www.iccexpertise.org





Wrap up

Funding and Fees



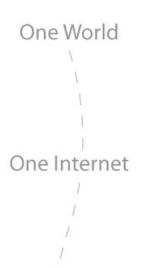
- Fees estimated at USD\$50,000.
- Both sides pay fees w/ winner being reimbursed.
- Funding available for ALAC and Governments.
- Process for requesting funds to be posted to the microsite.

Conclusion

- Internet is changing, but you have a say in how.
- Review posted strings at: <u>http://newgtlds.icann.org</u>
- Object if warranted.



Thank You



Questions